

Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



SF 2111 – Crime Victims Compensation (LSB 5291SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

Senate File 2111 permits identity theft passports to be issued to Iowa residents subject to identity theft outside of Iowa, permits staff of the Crime Victim Assistance Division of the Office of the Attorney General to participate in certain hearings by telephone, expands the definition of a crime covered by the Victim Compensation Program to include identity theft and financial exploitation of a person that is at least 65 years of age, defines a homicide victim survivor, provides for installation of new security items, and specifies that compensation is based on the loss of reasonable income.

Background

- Receipts to the Victim Compensation Fund include a portion of the criminal surcharge, restitution, certain inmate wages, federal funds, and a portion of the Operating While Intoxicated fines. The Fund pays certain out-of-pocket expenses of crime victims and their families, as defined in Iowa Code chapter [915](#). The Fund also covers expenses related to:
 - a. Administrative costs of the Crime Victim Assistance Division, including the Victim Services Grant Program.
 - b. Sexual Abuse Examination Program.
 - c. Services and support to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault including shelter care providers.
 - d. Victim and witness coordinators.
 - e. Training for victim services providers is limited to no more than \$100,000 annually.
- Funds must be held in reserve so the Fund remains financially sound. A financial reserve permits sufficient cash flow for payment of claims and operations in the event of delayed federal reimbursement or a catastrophic event. The current estimated ending balance is \$4.1 million in FY 2012 and \$4.4 million in FY 2013.
- Federal law permits up to 60.0% of certain costs to be reimbursed by the federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funds. However, the federal payment is not received until the following fiscal year, so the Fund must be able to cash flow the expenses. Additionally, federal reimbursement rates are dependent on several items, including but not limited to the amount of money available in the federal VOCA Fund, and the amount of claims pending at the federal level.
- Receipts to the Fund in FY 2012 and FY 2013 are expected to be relatively stable.

Assumption

The expansion of benefits will not exceed the capacity of the Crime Victim Compensation Fund.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact of [SF 2111](#) is a maximum increase in expenditures from the Crime Victim Compensation Fund of \$181,000 annually as follows:

- Identity theft passport: \$15,000.
- Telephonic hearings: minimal reduction in travel expenses.
- Identity theft/financial exploitation of elderly: \$81,000.
- Uniform definition of homicide victim survivor: \$70,000.
- Installation of new security items: \$15,000.

[Senate File 2111](#) is estimated to draw down the ending balance by \$181,000 in FY 2013. Of this amount, \$166,000 is eligible for 60.0% reimbursement (\$99,600) from VOCA in FY 2014. The State share of \$181,000 in FY 2013 will be split between the State (\$81,400) and federal VOCA grant receipts (\$99,600) in FY 2014.

Source

Office of the Attorney General

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to **Joint Rule 17** and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to **Iowa Code section [2.56](#)**. Data used in developing this fiscal note, is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
